may be due under 37 C.F.R. 1.17 or for any over payment.

In response to the Office Action dated January 29, 2002, please amend the above-identified application, as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

--91. (Amended) A method for producing an information carrier comprising at least two solid material interfaces adapted to contain information and whereat the information is stored by local modulation of at least one solid material characteristic, from which characteristic reflection of electromagnetic radiation depends at said interface, further comprising at least one intermediate layer between said two solid material interfaces, said at least one intermediate layer transmitting said radiation, said information being readable from at least one of said solid material interfaces by means of radiation of predetermined wavelength, the method comprising the step of:

depositing in said intermediate layer at least one layer at least predominantly comprising Si_vN_w by means of a reactive vacuum coating process, comprising the step of freeing Si from a solid body into a process atmosphere with a reactive gas containing N.

92. (Amended) A method for producing an information carrier

comprising at least two solid material interfaces adapted to contain information and whereat the information is stored by local modulation of at least one solid material characteristic, from which characteristic reflection of electro-magnetic radiation depends at said interface, further comprising at least one intermediate layer between said two solid material interfaces, said at least one intermediate layer transmitting said radiation, said information being readable from a least one of said solid material interfaces by means of radiation of predetermined wavelength, the method comprising the step of:

depositing in said intermediate layer at least one layer at least predominantly comprising $Si_vN_wH_u$ by means of a reactive vacuum coating process in a process atmosphere, an optimum of transmission of said layer and of a refractive index of the material of said layer being achieved by adjusting the concentration of a reactive gas in the process atmosphere, which reactive gas comprises N and H.

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104. (Amended) The method according to claim 91 or 92, wherein said layer is produced as a layer of an intermediate layer between two solid material interfaces of an information carrier, at which interfaces information is adapted to be applied, and whereat the information is stored by local modulation of at least one solid material characteristic, from which characteristic reflection of

electromagnetic radiation depends at said interfaces.

Sub E1 D3 Contd

105. (Amended) The method according to claim 91 or 92, wherein said layer is produced at an information carrier as an intermediate layer between two solid material interfaces, which intermediate layer comprises a dielectric layer system with at least one layer, at which interfaces information is adapted to be applied and whereat the information is stored by local modulation of at least one solid material characteristic, from which characteristic reflection of electromagnetic radiation depends at said interfaces, wherein said layer system has an optical thickness which, at least in a first approximation, is $m \cdot \lambda_o/4$, wherein m is integer and at least unity and is uneven and wherein λ_o designated the wavelength of said radiation which is transmitted through said at least one dielectric layer of said dielectric layer system.

Sub E1 D3

107. (Amended) A method for producing an information carrier comprising at least two solid material interfaces adapted to contain information and whereat the information is stored by local modulation of at least one solid material characteristic, from which characteristic reflection of electromagnetic radiation depends at said interface, further comprising at least one intermediate layer between said two solid material interfaces, said at least one intermediate layer transmitting said radiation, said

information being readable from a least one of said solid material interfaces by means of radiation of predetermined wavelength, the method comprising the step of:

depositing the intermediate layer to have a layer system with at least one dielectric layer and with an optical thickness which, at least in a first approximation, is $m.\lambda_o/4$, wherein m is an integer of at least unity and is uneven and wherein λ_o designates the wavelength of said radiation which is transmitted through said at least one dielectric layer and wherein, depending from said m being an integer, m being reduced by an amount of up to 0.6 or increased by an amount of up to 0.2.--